

**Abstract 610**

**TITLE:** Incidence and Community Prevalence of HIV and Other Blood Borne Pathogens  
Among Incarcerated Women in Rhode Island

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**BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES:** To measure community prevalence and incidence of HIV and other blood borne pathogens correlate specific behaviors and demographics to prevalence and seroconversion.

**METHODS:** Discarded blood from mandatory HIV testing done on the first 417 HIV- negative incarcerated women of 1996 and tested for hepatitis B and C, and HTLV-II in a blinded fashion. In addition, discarded blood samples from women who were re-incarcerated any time from January 1996 to November 1997 were also tested.

**RESULTS:** During the period represented by the first 417 HIV negative incarcerated women (January to May 1996), 432 women were tested for HIV (see table).

	Prevalence	Recidivist Prevalence	Recidivist Incidence
HIV	1.6% (71/432)	N/A	0.31/100 PY
HBV	36% (150/417)	29% HBcAb (85/297)	12.2/100 PY
HCV	34% (140/417)	40% (120/297)	18.2/100 PY
HTLV	2.2% (9/417)	2.7% (8/297)	00.8/100 PY

Prevalence of hepatitis C was significantly associated with age >25 ( $p=0.0001$ ), white race ( $p=0.032$ ), and drug use ( $p=0.05$ ) as well as specifically heroin use ( $p=0.05$ ). Prevalence of hepatitis B was significantly associated with drug use ( $p=0.011$ ), specifically heroin use ( $p=0.0001$ ). Only specifically heroin use was associated with both hepatitis B and C seroconversion ( $p=0.002$ ). HTLV-II prevalence was significantly associated with age >25, and 88% of prevalent cases reported drug use or alcohol use.

**CONCLUSION:** The community prevalence and incidence of hepatitis B and C are higher than HIV among incarcerated women in Rhode Island. Drug and/or alcohol use is the most likely associated risk behavior. The prison population represents a public health opportunity for the treatment and prevention of hepatitis and HIV.

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